

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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SP-02 NSC-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /085 W
-----037331 241650Z /50

R 241453Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5211
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23168

SECSTATE PLEASE PASS TO ACDA/AID.

E.O. 11652: GDS 84
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, XX
SUBJECT: ANNUAL INTEGRATED SECURITY ASSISTANCE
ASSESSMENT (AISAA)

REFS: A. SECSTATE 167901/U10215Z JUL 78; B. SECSTATE
168320/031928Z JUL 78; C. CINCEUR 11196/071545Z JUL 78
(NOTAL); D. CINCEUR 11538/131635Z JUL 78 (NOTAL);
E. SECSTATE 182987/192201Z JUL 78 (NOTAL)

1. THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT IS SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO
REF A, AS CLARIFIED BY REFS B THROUGH E.
2. US INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES. FRANCE CONTINUES TO
REMAIN DIVORCED FROM THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE
OF NATO, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME OFTEN PROVIDING STRONG
SUPPORT FOR US POLICIES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE WESTERN
EUROPE. HER LIMITED DEGREE OF COOPERATION WITH NATO AS
WELL AS HER PROPENSITY TO PROVIDE PRO-US SUPPORT
ELSEWHERE CAN BE ENCOURAGED AND STRENGTHENED THROUGH A
POSITIVE SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
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UNITED STATES. ALONG WITH THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF FOR THE MILITARY FORCES OF FRANCE,
AND THE SPECIFIC SECURITY ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVES CON-
TAINED IN THE MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROJECTION
(MSAP), OUR AIMS SHOULD FOCUS INCREASINGLY ON THE
RATIONALIZATION, STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF
FRENCH FORCES AND THEIR EQUIPMENTS, TOGETHER WITH A

REALISTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWO-WAY STREET CONCEPT.

3. THE THREAT AND STRATEGY: FRANCE SEES THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES AS THE SOLE PRINCIPAL EXTERNAL MILITARY THREAT TO FRENCH INTERESTS. TO COUNTER THAT THREAT, FRANCE MAINTAINS A BALANCED STRATEGY, INDEPENDENT BUT NONETHELESS ORIENTED TOWARD NATO. THERE ARE NO PERCEIVED INTERNAL THREATS BEYOND THOSE POSED BY TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH THESE ARE NOT VIEWED AS DANGEROUS TO THE BODY POLITIC, INTERNAL SECURITY AGENCIES HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED TO COUNTER THIS SITUATION. MISSION CONCURS IN FRENCH PERCEPTIONS.

4. THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. THE FRENCH ARE FIRM IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY REQUIRE A CREDIBLE MILITARY POSTURE MADE UP OF CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR-CAPABLE LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES, TOGETHER WITH THE INDUSTRIAL AND RESEARCH BASE NECESSARY FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE DEFENSE OF FRANCE AND HER OVERSEAS INTERESTS. FRANCE IS FULLY AWARE THAT SHE CANNOT FACE THE THREAT POSED BY THE SOVIET BLOC ALONE, AND CONTINUES A LOOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE POLICIES OF NATO WHILE MAINTAINING HER OWN INDEPENDENCE OF DECISION. IN FRENCH TERMS, A CREDIBLE MILITARY POSTURE IS ONE CAPABLE OF "TEARING OFF ONE ARM". OUTSIDE OF THE EUROPEAN THEATER, THE FRENCH ARE WORKING TO IMPROVE THEIR LIMITED ABILITY TO PROJECT MILITARY POWER IN ORDER TO PROTECT OVERSEAS INTERESTS.

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5. MISSION ASSESSMENT OF FORCES. IN BROAD TERMS, THE FRENCH HAVE A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT THAT IS COMPLEMENTARY TO AND SUPPORTIVE OF US INTERESTS. IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY OF EQUIPMENT COULD PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT BOOST TO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS WORLDWIDE. A SUBSTANTIVE SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENCOURAGING THIS TYPE OF EVOLUTION.

6. DEFENSE SPENDING. DEFENSE EXPENDITURES ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO FRANCE, BOTH IN PROVIDING THE MILITARY CREDIBILITY ESSENTIAL TO THEIR INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN ROLE, AND INTERNALLY IN COMBATTING UNEMPLOYMENT IN AN EXPANDING LABOR FORCE. BECAUSE FRANCE IS THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST ARMAMENTS EXPORTER, HER INDUSTRIAL BASE IS LARGER THAN REQUIRED TO SATISFY PURELY FRENCH NEEDS. CONSEQUENTLY, EXPORT SALES INCREASINGLY HELP TO OFFSET THE COSTS OF FRENCH MILITARY PROGRAMS AS WELL AS COVERING CERTAIN IMPORT EXPENSES. CALENDAR YEAR 1978 DEFENSE SPENDING WILL APPROACH \$18 BILLION, EXCLUSIVE OF PENSION (RETIREMENT) COSTS. THIS EQUATES TO 20.2 OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET AND 4 OF THE GNP. IT IS FORECAST THAT THE DEFENSE BUDGET IN CY 1979 WILL INCREASE 16.6.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23168

MILITARY IMPORTS (PRINCIPALLY FROM THE US) ARE A MINISCULE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL IMPORTS: AN ESTIMATED \$17 MILLION ON \$77 BILLION. FRANCE HAS NO KNOWN FOREIGN EXCHANGE OR DEBT SERVICING PROBLEMS.

8. PROJECTED DEFENSE NEEDS AND IMPACT. DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES FRANCE IS LIKELY TO SEEK FROM THE US DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION ARE CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT MSAP, AS ARE THE DETAILS CONCERNING RATIONALE AND PROJECTED USE. THERE WILL BE NO ECONOMIC PROBLEM IN FRANCE IF THESE ARTICLES AND SERVICES ARE ACQUIRED, NOR WILL THERE OCCUR ANY REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL IMPACT BY THEIR ACQUISITION.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT IN FRANCE AND THE US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROJECTED. THE FRENCH RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS EXCELLENT.

10. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. WHILE FRANCE PARTICIPATES IN A NUMBER OF MULTI-NATION MILITARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, SHE RECEIVES NO ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE OTHER THAN FROM THE US.

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11. SECURITY ASSISTANCE MANNING LEVELS. THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROJECTIONS FOR THE PERIOD UNDER STUDY, TOGETHER WITH THE \$536 MILLION OF MAP/FAP EQUIPMENT ON HAND AND THE LIAISON ACTIVITY REQUIRED FOR ADMINISTRATION OF US-FRENCH MUTUAL WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ARE UNDER REVIEW. THE PRESENT MANNING LEVEL FOR ODC FRANCE WAS REACHED WHEN REDUCTIONS TOOK PLACE DURING CHANGEOVER FROM MAAG IN 1976. AS INDICATED IN A RECENT ODC ANALYSIS, A 13-14 MAN-YEAR REQUIREMENT EXISTS TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE JOINT MANPOWER PROGRAM FY 78-82. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PERFORM THESE FUNCTIONS OUT OF EUCOM HQ AND, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BY DEFATT, CLOSE THE PRESENT ODC OFFICE. THE CURRENT MANNING LEVEL IS AUTHORIZED AT 12 SPACES: THREE MILITARY, THREE DAC AND SIX FSL (LOCAL HIRE). THE WORKLOAD WILL INCREASINGLY TAX THIS COMPLEMENT AS THE TEMPO OF PROCESSING OBSOLETE MAP EQUIPMENT INCREASES IN THE PROJECTION TIMEFRAME, ALONG WITH THE GROWTH OF OTHER SECURITY ASSISTANCE EFFORTS. HARTMAN

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